

NOTES=HERE AND THERE

Conducted by the Secretary

At its last annual meeting The Wilson Club passed resolutions supporting national legislation designed to prohibit the construction of dams and water power plants in our National Parks. It is good news to know that this amendment passed and now no such development can be carried out without special act of Congress. By the former law such permission could be granted by the Federal Power Commission.

Dr. R. M. Strong, our President, spent his vacation as usual on the Great Lakes, where at one time or another he has visited practically all of the breeding colonies of gulls and terns. During the "indoor season" Dr. Strong spends his spare time delving into the little worked field of avian anatomy.

Our worthy contemporary, The Auk, finds itself a victim of the printer's strike and its July number is something like two months behind.

The annual meeting of the American Ornithologist Union will be held in Philadelphia during the week of November 14th, 1921.

Additional volumes of the Life Histories of North American Birds are being looked forward to with keen anticipation. Mr. A. C. Bent's first volume, on The Diving Birds, is to be followed by one on The Gulls and Terns, which is now set up in type. The manuscript for the third volume, covering Pelicans and Petrels, is complete and the author is at work on a fourth volume, which will treat of the Ducks and Geese. When the species not covered by Bendire have been disposed of, it is to be hoped that the way will be made clear for the republication of the Bendire volumes, revised to date and uniform in size with those now being issued.

Bird banding has received a most remarkable impetus during the past few years and to complete the "chain of evidence" a vigorous campaign of winter trapping is desirable. This is particularly needed from southern localities and offers a fertile suggestion to our southern members. Full instruction and explanation of the work is embodied in Department Bulletin, "Instructions for Bird Banding," by F. C. Lincoln, and copies may be secured gratis by addressing The Biological Survey in Washington.

Perhaps no one item is so useful for attracting and retaining winter birds about the premises as a brush pile constructed in a thicket. The writer has a copse near his home in which he constructed a brush pile of considerable size and no less than five species of winter birds used it as a refuge and roosting place throughout the past winter. The higher the pile the more acceptable it is.

Dr. Lynds Jones has returned from his usual summer "overland" trip to the Pacific coast. The party of biological students, whose studies and observations he directed en route, closed their notebooks at Tacoma and, scattering, left our editor to pursue his way homeward according to his own whim.

Perhaps none of our birds have benefited as greatly, through federal legislation, as has the robin. It is now an abundant summer bird in latitudes where it was formerly known only as a migrant and in the south, in late winter, is present at times in incredible numbers. The Biological Survey is finding itself in the difficult position of having to give relief to northern orchardists and at the same time to uphold the import of the law. Six northern states have been allowed to issue permits for the shooting of Robins between May 15th and July 15th, where they are found to be injuring cherries and other crops. Such permits will no doubt be often abused but, all things considered, any other course than the one pursued would cause an undesirable reaction in the real cause of bird protection.

Particular attention is called to the paper by Mr. Frank L. Burns, now running in *The Bulletin*, as being one of the most valuable contributions to ornithology which has appeared in late years. Mr. Burns' paper in the March, 1915, *Bulletin*, on the incubation period of our native birds, was a fitting prelude to the present articles.

Reports are coming in from our members that "the woods are full of 'em." Not some *rara avis*, if you please, but the illicit rum still, which vies with *Bubo* and the Pileated Woodpecker in seeking out the dark and unfrequented corners of our woodland fastnesses. The writer has himself artlessly sidestepped more than one of them during the season just passed.

Dr. Alexander T. Wetmore has recently returned from a year's stay in Argentine, Paraguay and Uruguay, where he was sent by the Biological Survey to investigate the status of those of our migratory birds which spend the winter there. It is to be hoped that the information gained will help to clarify some of the questions which have heretofore been the subject of conjecture; for instance, we should be glad to learn if our wintering chimney swifts were to be found and if so in what numbers. Dr. Wetmore's chief mission was to gain accurate information on which to base a migratory bird treaty with South American countries.

Members should keep in mind the fact that our annual meeting will be held in Chicago during the week following Christmas, and plan to be on hand. Further particulars will be given in our December issue.